



USAID
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AFGHANISTAN

BIOGRAPHY

Mission Director S. Ken Yamashita



Dr. S. Ken Yamashita was sworn-in as the tenth U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director to Afghanistan on June 10, 2011. A Senior Executive Foreign Service Officer with a rank of Minister Counselor, Yamashita has served USAID for more than 20 years in both overseas and Washington, D.C. assignments.

As head of the USAID/Afghanistan team, Yamashita is responsible for the U.S. Government's assistance program to Afghanistan. With more than \$13.1 billion provided for development programs since 2002, USAID has the largest bilateral civilian assistance program in Afghanistan. USAID's work continues to be a vital support to Afghanistan in its efforts to ensure economic growth led by the private sector, establish a democratic and capable state governed by the rule of law, and provide basic services for its people.

Most recently, Yamashita served as the Mission Director for USAID in Colombia. In this capacity, he managed a \$200 million a year development portfolio aimed at developing alternatives to illicit crops production, re-establishing government presence in remote areas of the country, assisting vulnerable populations, and preventing human rights violations.

Prior to that, Yamashita served as Acting Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia (E&E), U.S. Agency for International Development where he directed a \$650 million annual budget that supported economic growth and fiscal reform, democracy-building, and social transition in the 15 European and Eurasian countries receiving U.S. foreign assistance.

Yamashita's other USAID assignments include Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for the E&E Bureau; Director of the Office of Health for USAID/Ecuador; Chief of the Health Policy Division, Global Center for Health, Population, and Nutrition, USAID/Washington; Director of the Office of Health, USAID/South Africa; Interim Mission Director, USAID Mission Director for Kosovo; and Deputy Mission Director of USAID/Peru. From 2006-2008, Yamashita was simultaneously the Director of Office of HIV/AIDS within USAID'S Bureau for Global Health and the USG Special Advisor for Orphans and Vulnerable Children, an appointment designated by the USAID Administrator through delegated authority of the U.S. Secretary of State.

Before joining USAID, Yamashita worked for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Futures Group, and the United Nations.

A native of Kobe, Japan, Yamashita received a B.A. in environmental engineering from the Johns Hopkins University in 1975, and a Ph.D. with a concentration of population and development economics from the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health in 1980. He has received numerous awards and citations for his contributions to development, including the prestigious Presidential Meritorious Rank Award in 2009.

Yamashita is married and has two children.